

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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REF: A) BONN 10596; B) ALGIERS 1476

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SUBJECT: FRG PURSUES INFORMAL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY AND
RAW MATERIALS POLICY.

REF: A) BONN 10596; B) ALGIERS 1476

1. EMBASSY ECON COUNSELOR WAS BRIEFED BY MFA OFFICE
DIRECTOR FOR ENERGY AFFAIRS, DR. KRUSE ON THE
SCHEDULED WISCHNEWSKI TOUR THROUGH CAPITALS OF THE
SEVEN (OPEC AND LDC CONSUMERS) PARTICIPANTS AT THE
PARIS PREPCON. KRUSE REFERRED TO WISCHNEWSKI'S
TRIPS AS A GOOD-WILL TOUR, INTENDED TO EXCHANGE
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VIEWS AND CONVEY THE FRG'S GENUINE INTEREST IN THE

RESUMPTION OF THE INTERRUPTED DIALOGUE AND OF THE DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORT TOWARD BRIDGING THE CHASM BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THE DCS AND LDCS. ON THE FIRST OF HIS SEVEN PLANNED STOPS (ALGIERS), WISCHNEWSKI FOUND THE ATMOSPHERE VERY FRIENDLY, BUT HIS INTERLOCUTORS (PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND MINISTER ABDESSELAM) HARD ON SUBSTANCE, CONFIRMING REPORT IN REFTEL B. KRUSE SAID THAT ALGERIANS CHARGED FRG OF FOLLOWING HARD AMERICAN LINE AND DESERVING ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS BLAME THAN US.

2. ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE, KRUSE REPORTED THAT, IN RESPONSE TO ALGERIANS' ASSERTIONS THAT THEY CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO YIELD THEIR TRUMP CARD -- OIL AND OIL PRICES -- WISCHNEWSKI REPLIED THAT THE FRG'S AND THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD'S COUNTER-TRUMP IS THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW, WHICH THEY IN TURN ARE NOT PREPARED TO YIELD WITHOUT APPROPRIATE QUID PRO QUO. TO THE ALGERIANS' INSISTENCE ON INDEXATION, WISCHNEWSKI IS SAID TO HAVE REPLIED THAT FRG IS UNALTERABLY OPPOSED, SINCE INDEXATION, APART FROM POSING EXTREMELY COMPLEX PROBLEMS, WOULD AFFECT MOST ADVERSELY THE MSAS AND ALSO SUCH MAJOR RAW MATERIALS IMPORTERS AS THE FRG. WISCHNEWSKI CONVEYED THE CHANCELLOR'S DEEP CONCERN FOR THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY, WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING MOST SERIOUS STRAINS AND EXPRESSED THE FRG'S FEARS THAT, UNLESS A SUCCESSFUL DIALOGUE CAN BE INITIATED, THINGS MAY GET EVEN WORSE. THE ALGERIANS ASSURED WISCHNEWSKI THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO SEE A WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS, BUT FELT THAT THE DCS HAD TO TAKE THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE LDCS INTO ACCOUNT THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AND A THOROUGH MONETARY REFORM.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC APPROACHES TO RAW MATERIALS POLICY, KRUSE STATED THAT THE FRG WAS AGAINST BLANKET ACCEPTANCE OF COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, EXCEPT ON A HIGHLY SELECTIVE BASIS. THE FRG, HE SAID, NOW LEANS TOWARD SOME VARIANT OF AN EXPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIPTS STABILIZATION SCHEME. HE ADDED, THAT THE FRG WILL BRIEF THE MID-JULY EUROPEAN COUNCIL (SUMMIT) MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST PORTION OF WISCHNEWSKI'S TOUR AND WILL ALSO SEEK TO ELICIT SUPPORT OF ITS EC PARTNERS FOR ITS VIEWS ON COMMODITY POLICY.
HILLENBRAND

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